

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the claim amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-7 are currently active in this case. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended and claim 3 has been cancelled by the current amendment. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 7 can be found in the specification at page 18 line 23 - page 19 line 2. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding office action, claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 USC 101 for double patenting the claims of U.S. patent No. 6,857,573; and claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 5,971,276 to Sano.

Claim 1 has been amended. Consequently, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 and 4-7 are no longer coextensive in scope with the claims of the '573 patent. Applicants also note that the claims of the '573 patent do not appear to be the claims allowed by the Office regarding the application that matured into the '573 patent. The assignee of the '573 patent will be filing a certificate of correction to address that error. No further rejection on the basis of 35 USC 101 double patenting is therefore anticipated.

As amended, claim 1 defines (a) that the article includes a plastic card configured to have magnetic information stored thereon and (b) that an invisible symbol is formed on the plastic card with an infrared absorption wavelength apart from that of the plastic card when heated. For a sample such as a plastic card configured to have magnetic information written thereon, the claimed heating feature generates problems not associated with placing an invisible symbol on a sample such as plastic or cloth. In particular, Applicants' specification teaches that when placing the invisible symbol on the plastic card, it is necessary to heat only the invisible symbol while maintaining the main body of the card at a low temperature. Specification page 18 line 23 - page 19 line 2.

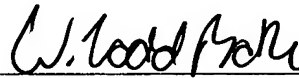
Application No. 10/628,441
Reply to Office Action of March 09, 2005

Regarding the 35 USC 102(e) rejection, the official action asserts that Sano discloses that the substrate can be made of paper, polymer, or cloth. With regard to the assertion that Sano discloses that the substrate can be made of a polymer, Applicants respectfully traverse. Applicants submit that Sano does not teach in the paragraph bridging columns 7 and 8 that the sample can be a polymer. Further, Sano does not address the problems discovered by the Applicants regarding placing the invisible symbol on a plastic card configured to store magnetic information thereon. Consequently, Sano is not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by claim 1 and its dependents.

In view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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